

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 096347

R 291701Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8918

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10877

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, FR

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR EXPORTERS CONFERENCE: FRENCH
REACTION

REF: A) LONDON 6168 B) PARIS 10693 C) STATE 82055

D) PARIS 10181

SUMMARY: BOTH MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO THE APRIL 23 LONDON MEETING OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME. DE NAZELLE IMPRESSED US WITH HIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SCHEDULED JUNE 18 CONFERENCE, THOUGH HE HAD SOME MISGIVINGS ON THE HARD LINE CURRENTLY TAKEN BY THE SOVIETS AND CANADIANS. HE ADDED THAT THE FRENCH TREATED SAFEGUARDS ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS SEPARATELY FROM THE NPT AND THAT THEIR NPT POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED. HE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH WANT TO KNOW WHEN THE USG WILL REPLY TO THE FRENCH REQUEST FOR A BILATERAL MEETING IN EARLY MAY TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON FRENCH NUCLEAR EXPORTS ARISING OUT OF COCOM OR THE WESTINGHOUSE/G.E. LICENSING AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

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1. AT A RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH D'ORNANO FOR A VISITING U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY TEAM, MFA SCIENCE AFFAIRS DIRECTOR DE NAZELLE INITIATED A CONVERSATION ON THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS MEETING HELD IN LONDON ON APRIL 23 (REF A). HE WAS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME AND TOOK A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON PROSPECTS FOR THE JUNE 18 CONFERENCE. THE OTHER FRENCH DELEGATE, GOLDSCHMIDT, ALSO EXPRESSED TO US HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE APRIL 23 MEETING. DE NAZELLE ADDED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD TOLD HIM HOW PLEASED THEY WERE WITH THE FRENCH DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS MEETINGS.

2. DE NAZELLE NOTED TWO CONCERNS FOR THE JUNE 18 CONFERENCE: A) THE FEASIBILITY OF INSISTING ON MULTILATERAL REPROCESSING PLANTS AND B) THE HARD LINE BEING TAKEN BY THE SOVIETS AND THE CANADIANS. NOTING IRONICALLY THAT THEY WERE OUTFLANKING THE AMERICANS, HE COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIETS, NOT BEING NUCLEAR EXPORTERS, HAD NOTHING TO LOSE. HE HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT THE CANADIAN POSITION EXCEPT TO AGREE THAT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY A RESPONSE TO THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION.

3. DE NAZELLE SAID THAT THE FRENCH GVT HANDLES THE NPT AND NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS AS SEPARATE ISSUES AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE FRENCH NPT POLICY NOR IN THE JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THAT POLICY (REF B).

4. PERHAPS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE DE NAZELLE INITIATIVE WAS TO DISCUSS THE ASSURANCES SOUGHT BY THE FRENCH CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON FRENCH NUCLEAR EXPORTS THAT MIGHT ARISE IN CONJUNCTION WITH COCOM OR THE WESTINGHOUSE AND G.E. LICENSES HELD BY FRENCH NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTORS. SAUVAGNARGUES HAD RAISED THIS ISSUE IN A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY (REF C). DE NAZELLE SAID THAT DURING THE APRIL 23 MEETING, P/M DIRECTOR

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VEST HAD INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO HOLD A BILATERAL MEETING ON THIS QUESTION. DE NAZELLE HOPED THAT IT COULD TAKE PLACE IN EARLY MAY, PERHAPS IN WASHINGTON.

5. COMMENT: DE NAZELLE MADE A POINT OF RAISING THE COCOM/LICENSE ISSUE IN THE PRESENCE OF MINISTER D'ORNANO'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR (PICARD), WHO PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY AND KNOWLEDGEABLY IN THE CON-

VERSION. BOTH REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF NUCLEAR SALES TO THE SOVIET BLOC. OUR IMPRESSION

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 10877

EXDIS

WAS THAT IT WAS THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH WHICH WAS PUSHING THIS ISSUE. THE URGENCY THEY BOTH ATTACHED TO AN EARLY MEETING COULD BE EXPLAINED BY 1) A DESIRE TO HAVE THE BILATERAL MEETING BEFORE THE JUNE 18 CONFERENCE AND 2) BY THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMMINENT DEAL TO SELL REACTORS TO THE SOVIETS. DE NAZELLE WAS UNSURE OF THE NATURE OF THE RESTRICTION IN THE WESTINGHOUSE/GE LICENSE ON EXPORTS OF REACTORS TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHEN THE DEPT CAN MEET WITH THE FRENCH ON COCOM/LICENSE RESTRICTIONS. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION THAT WE COULD PASS TO THE FRENCH ON THE EXACT NATURE OF THE RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE WESTINGHOUSE/GE LICENSES. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR WHAT COUNTRIES DO NUCLEAR EXPORTS REQUIRE A SPECIAL APPROVAL? WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THESE COUNTRIES? WHAT IS THE MECHANISM FOR OBTAINING THE SPECIAL APPROVAL? (WE WISH TO UNDERLINE ONCE MORE THE IMPORTANCE THE

FRENCH ATTACH TO NUCLEAR EXPORTATION, REF D, PARA
2F AND 3C.)
RUSH

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